

OIGA 732 Itq1

TO: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. OIGA-  
BUSINESS

SECRET  
CLASSIFICATION

TO: Chief, WE  
VIA ☒  
FROM: Chief, ☒

DATE 9 May 1956

Attn: Chief, ☒

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— Activity of PINO, ☒ Informant

Reference : OIGA-

1. Following the instructions received from the Israeli IS to get in touch with officials of the Egyptian Consulate in Genoa, PINO struck up an acquaintance with a certain GALLO, believed to be the doorman of the Consulate. Through GALLO, he found out that a certain TALAAT from the Consulate was interested in buying a car. (This is probably Hussein TALAAT HAMED, secretary and general factotum of the Consulate.) The Egyptian Consulate in Genoa is located at Piazza della Vittoria 11/16. In mid-April PINO learned that TALAAT was going to look at a car in an agency in Piazza della Vittoria. Along with GALLO, he went to the agency, met TALAAT there as if by chance, and, speaking in Arabic so that the car dealer would not understand, suggested that he would be happy to place his own car occasionally at TALAAT's disposal. TALAAT accepted the offer and has been using PINO's car at various times since then.
2. On another occasion, PINO went aboard an Egyptian ship docked at Genoa and met a purser who turned out to be a member of the Coptic church. PINO told ☒ that he immediately figured that the purser would be anti-Moslem. He invited him ashore for dinner and drove around Genoa for several hours. At the end of the time, he felt that he had ascertained the anti-Moslem sentiments of the purser to a sufficient extent that he could ask him whether he would be willing to supply information for a reasonable monthly salary. PINO said that the purser agreed immediately for purely financial reasons. ☒ later told PINO that he had acted foolishly and hastily, no matter how sure he might be of the purser's good will. The Egyptian ship makes regular runs to Genoa and PINO will contact the purser again on his next trip.
3. On 3 May PINO left Genoa to go to Rome to report his activity to the Israeli IS. He was met at the station by ARTHUR (Arthur BEN NATAN) who said that he had also been on the same train coming from Paris. The two men took a taxi to Piazza Colonna and, after having breakfasted at BIFFI, took another taxi to a bar-restaurant on Viale Parioli. They made sure that they had not been followed. At 0830 hours exactly, they were joined there by "EITAN," PINO's Israeli case officer. EITAN

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exchanged a few words in Hebrew with ARTHUR and handed the latter an envelope containing a black powder. ARTHUR then left the restaurant.

4. EITAN then warned PINO not to use the telephone number in Rome that he had been given except to establish the hour at which EITAN should call him in Genoa. He warned PINO to avoid all superfluous conversation on that line. He told him that, in sending telegrams or other correspondence, he should always use a false name and address as a return address. EITAN then read PINO's report of his activity with TALAAT and the Egyptian purser, and, somewhat incredulously, asked PINO whether he really was convinced of the good faith of the purser. When PINO answered affirmatively, EITAN approved of the action, still with an unconvinced air, and told PINO that, if the purser could supply the required information, PINO could give him a monthly salary of 50,000 lire. As a starter, PINO was to obtain the following information: the purser's full name, address, family data, names of other relatives and family friends and their professions. When PINO objected that the questions seemed of little importance, EITAN replied that he should do as he was told and that only EITAN could judge the utility of the questions. He explained to PINO that the type of information that the Egyptian could supply would be determined by the type of his contacts, their rank and their possibilities. PINO was to have the purser write in his own hand in Arabic. The purser should also be asked to compile a report on the Egyptian merchant marine, listing the tonnage of each ship and the names of the officers. He should also be asked to list the orders received by Egyptian merchant ships from the Egyptian police authorities.
5. As regarded the Egyptian Consulate in Genoa, EITAN pointed out that if TALAAT cannot be persuaded to cooperate by pleasant means, it would be necessary to persuade him by more unpleasant ones. EITAN was thinking of the possibility of drawing him into some contraband activity, having him take advantage of the diplomatic pouch. Proof of such activity would be obtained and used against him. From the Consulate, EITAN was interested in obtaining a folder of political information known to be held by the Consulate and also a list of war material acquired by the Egyptians in Italy. EITAN said, for example, it was believed that PIAGGIO had sold certain airplanes destined for use by the Egyptians. Lastly, EITAN named a certain FLEIO, an Egyptian employee at the Genoa Consulate for whose cooperation he was willing to pay around 70,000 lire a month.
6. EITAN and PINO left the restaurant about 1100 hours and PINO took an afternoon train to Genoa. EITAN said that he would telephone PINO in Genoa on 7 May or would have come himself to Genoa about 9 May. He would give PINO a camera with instructions for its use, since he did not consider good for anything the Minx camera which PINO already has. As for PINO's own salary, he would send him 100,000 lire as soon as

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possible. KATAN was going to leave Italy shortly for a brief visit to Vienna. He reimbursed PINO 15,000 lire for his expenses in the trip from Genoa to Rome.

7. From the conversation with ARTHUR, PINO, though he does not understand Hebrew, believed to have understood that KATAN is a brother or sister relative of the Israeli Ambassador to England. KATAN is, of course, a cover name.

Prepared by ☐ ☐

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